

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 11121 ACTION SECSTATE JUL 19.

QUOTE: UNCLAS GENEVA 11121

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMER ECOSOC GENERAL DEBATE ENDED JULY 14 WITH
SPEECHES BY SPAIN, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, ALGERIA AND
MONGOLIA.

2. SPANISH OBSERVER (MESTRE) NOTED THAT THE 1974
ECONOMIC CRISIS WAS PARTICULARLY HARD ON SEMIDEVELOPED
NATIONS SUCH AS SPAIN, AND STILL IS. HOWEVER, SPAIN
CAN ALSO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS,
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF HER RELATIONS WITH ARA AND
NEA NATIONS. THE ARTIFICIAL DIVISION OF THE WORLD'S
NATIONS INTO DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING CATEGORIES
HAS IMPEDED INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
BECAUSE THIS THOUGHTLESS CATEGORIZATION DOES NOT
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SQUARE WITH INDIVIDUAL VARIATIONS. SPAIN PRESSES FOR
CONSIDERATION OF KEY ISSUES: (A) GENERAL COMMITMENT
TO MAINTAIN OPEN AND COMPETITIVE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
SYSTEM; (B) SPAIN WILL REQUEST SIZEABLE TARIFF REDUC-
TIONS AT GATT. DEVELOPING NATIONS NEED SPECIAL CONSIDERA-
TION AND HELP; (C) IMPROVED TRANSFER OF RESOURCES,
ESPECIALLY OFFICIAL AID. ALL OF THESE MUST BE

ACCOMPLISHED WHILE MAINTAINING STABILITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM. SPAIN SUPPORTS COW, EVEN THOUGH ITS INITIAL EFFORTS WERE DISAPPOINTING BECAUSE IT WAS A TIME WHEN NEW MACHINERY WAS FIRST BEING IMPLEMENTED. THERE IS A NEED TO ACHIEVE REAL EFFICIENCY OF THE UN AND ECOSOC THROUGH RESTRUCTURING.

3. SYRIAN REP (EL FATTAL) STRESSED INTERDEPENDENCE, WHICH IS FINALLY BEING RECOGNIZED, WHEN NOT TOO LONG AGO NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEMS WERE DISMISSED AS EVIDENCE OF THE CYCLICAL NATURE OF ECONOMICS. RESTRUCTURING MUST BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR, NOT MERELY MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO. MOST DEVELOPING STATES SHARE JAMAICA'S VIEW OF INTERDEPENDENCE. TORN BETWEEN PAST DISAPPOINTMENTS AND FUTURE OPTIMISM WE MUST FREE STALLED NEGOTIATIONS ON MTN, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, ETC IN DEVELOPING IDS. INDIA'S SUGGESTED APPROACH BEARS MERIT. NORTH-SOUTH NEGOTIATIONS MUST CONTINUE WITHIN THE UN. COW HAS A FOCAL ROLE DESPITE PAST SETBACKS AND CURRENT PROCEDURAL DISAGREEMENTS. THE COW ROLE MUST BE ENHANCED BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY UN BODY WHERE NORTH-SOUTH TALKS CAN BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH ECOSOC DURING THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT DECADE. SYRIA THEREFORE STRONGLY SUPPORTS UNGA RESOLUTION 32/197. SYRIA IS ALSO HAPPY THAT WORK ON RESTRUCTURING HAS ALREADY BEGUN. EL FATTAL ALSO NOTED THAT SUCCESS ON ICA NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE A MAJOR TEST OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE WILL OF DEVELOPED STATES AND THEIR ATTITUDE ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOG. DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM THAT WILL IN ITS NATURAL OPERATION DIRECT RESOURCES IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS ODAS IS THE CRUCIAL CHALLENGE IN TRANSFER OF RESOURCES. EL FATTAL ENDED WITH BRIEF AND NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON THE ECONOMIC MOTIVES OF APARTHEID AND ZIONISM, BUT DID NOT MENTION ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

4. IN LONGEST SPEECH OF GENERAL DEBATE ALGERIAN REP (JAZAIRY) INTERLACED HARD LINE DEVELOPING COUNTRY RHETORIC WITH SEVERAL IDEAS WORTHY OF NOTE. HE CHARGED THAT FREE MARKET DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR POSITION IN THE ECONOMIC WORLD. BUT THEIR SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMIC CRISES TEND TO CONTRACT WORLD TRADE. HE PROPOSED THE WORLD SHOULD STIMULATE DEMAND IN LDCS WITHOUT SPURRING INFLATION, AND GIVE SPECIAL HELP TO LDC ECONOMIES. THE NEED IS TO STABILIZE PRICES, NOT EXPORT RECEIPTS. HE ALSO CHARGED THAT DESPITE HIGH LEVEL PRONOUNCEMENTS SUPPORTING ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN PRINCIPLE, A GROUP OF NATIONS CONTINUE TO OPPOSE CREATION OF THE COMMON FUND, BUT NOTED THAT SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED READINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN IT. ALL

GOVERNMENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD
THAT FUND, SUBMERGING THEIR PAROCHIAL SELF-INTEREST.
HE NOTED THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CHARACTERIZE PRICES
OF LDC GOODS AS "TOO HIGH" IF THEY ARE RAW MATERIALS
AND "TOO LOW" IF THEY ARE MANUFACTURED GOODS. THIS
SHOWS THE UNEQUAL CHARACTER OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN
DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ON TNCs, HE STATED
THAT THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE TNC CODE OF CONDUCT IS STILL
IMPRECISE. THIS QUESTION CONSTITUTES ONLY ONE ASPECT
OF THE PROBLEM AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION.
BHN AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ARE POLICIES THAT SHOULD BE
UNDERTAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY. FINAL PORTION OF JAZAIRY'S
SPEECH DEVOTED TO COW. THIS WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL.
VANDEN HEUVEL
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